Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. – 3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) A safety knock-type writing instrument, comprising:

a barrel having a cartridge therein;

a half gear unit provided on an exterior of the barrel and rotatably seated in a clip; and

a knock unit positioned in the barrel, and including first and second protrusions to engage with the half gear unit;

wherein the cartridge is retracted into the barrel when the first protrusion of the knock unit disengages from the half gear unit; and

the half gear unit rotates in a rotating direction and an opposite rotational direction (Q), in response to reciprocating motion of the knock unit in a pushing direction (F) and a releasing direction (R).

5. (previously presented) The safety knock-type writing instrument according to claim 4, wherein the barrel is formed so that a barrel body is integrated with a tip holder into a single structure, and comprises linear guide slits having a wide opening and a narrow opening, respectively, the linear guide slits having a predetermined length and being opened at a predetermined end so that the first and second protrusions axially slide along the linear guide slits while being projected out of the linear guide slits.

6. (previously presented) The safety knock-type writing instrument according to claim 4, wherein the barrel is coupled to a ring-shaped part of the clip by engagement of a first threaded part of the barrel with a second threaded part of the clip.

7. (previously presented) The safety knock-type writing instrument according to claim 4, wherein the barrel has a first tapered contact surface at a position around the first threaded part, and the ring-shaped part of the clip has a second tapered contact surface to be in frictional contact with the first tapered contact surface, the first and second tapered contact surfaces providing a relatively large contact area compared to a flat surface contact manner, thus increasing a coupling force when the first threaded part of the barrel having the guide slits engages with the second threaded part of the clip.

8. (previously presented) The safety knock-type writing instrument according to claim 4, wherein the half gear unit has a shape of an eccentric gear which rotates about a central axis thereof, and comprises:

a first rotation guide part providing a spirally inclined slide surface so that the first protrusion of the knock unit slides along the first rotation guide part to rotate the half gear unit within a predetermined angular range;

a first inclined groove part provided at a lower end of an inclined surface of the first rotation guide part to form a linearly inclined slide surface and a flat surface in a direction of an axis of rotating shafts, the first inclined groove part serving as a locking step using a height difference;

a first protrusion seat provided at an end of the flat surface of the first inclined groove part to have a height different from the first inclined groove part, the first protrusion seat having a spirally inclined slide surface and a sharp corner, thus seating and stopping the first protrusion when the cartridge is extended;

a second rotation guide part provided above the sharp corner of the first protrusion seat, and having a toothed shape with a spirally inclined slide surface;

a second inclined groove part which is the equal to the first inclined groove part, but has a linear inclined slide surface and a flat surface in an opposite direction to the first inclined groove part;

a third rotation guide part having a slide surface so that the second protrusion of the knock unit slides along the third rotation guide part;

a second protrusion seat to function as a stopper of the second protrusion; and

first and second sidewalls provided outside the first and second inclined groove parts to be perpendicular to the first and second inclined groove parts, the first and second sidewalls guiding and restraining the rotation of the first protrusion within the predetermined angular range.